

## HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 430

By Coley

A RESOLUTION to recognize the military service of U.S. Army Lieutenant Joseph Kevin Abel.

WHEREAS, our nation was conceived by individuals who were willing to sacrifice their personal safety and concerns to ensure our individual and collective freedom, and the Volunteer State is especially proud to honor those many valiant men and women who continue this time honored tradition of volunteerism through service in the United States Army; and

WHEREAS, United States Army Lieutenant Joseph Kevin Abel is one of this State's and this Nation's finest young men, who has recently ended a tour of duty in Afghanistan; and

WHEREAS, a graduate of Ridgeway High School in Memphis, Lieutenant Abel went on to attend Delta State University, home of the fabled Fighting Okra; and

WHEREAS, following successful completion of the Green to Gold program, Lt. Abel was commissioned as an intelligence officer and assigned to the famed 101<sup>st</sup> Airborne Division at Fort Campbell; and

WHEREAS, Lt. Abel was deployed to Logar Province, Afghanistan in fall 2012, an area known colloquially as the "Gates of Jihad" for the fierce fighting that has occurred there through several decades; and

WHEREAS, his return to Nashville is sure to be marked by many trips to his favorite local watering hole in Printer's Alley, where he can often be found quenching his wolf-like hunger with their British-themed fare; and

WHEREAS, his innate pride and patriotism are amply bolstered by the whole-hearted love and support of his family, Renee Abel, Katie Abel Graffam, and Megan Abel Strange; and

WHEREAS, U.S. Army Lieutenant Joseph Kevin Abel has served and continues to serve his country and fellow Americans with the strength of mind, body, and soul that is

deserving of the attention and applause of this legislative body, for his valor and courage is reminiscent of his forbearers' determination to embrace, improve, and protect their Tennessee homeland; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED EIGHTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, that we hereby thank United States Army Lieutenant Joseph Kevin Abel for his service rendered to our country, and we wish him Godspeed throughout all the remaining days of his career.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.